RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

April, 1992

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

STOP CHRIST HOSPITAL'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL PARKING LOTS

On Wednesday, April 15th, at 6:00 pm, a special meeting of the City Council will be held at City Hall to vote on a ordinance to vacate three streets - Ogden Avenue, Prospect and Montague Streets - in order to accomodate the latest parking lot plan of Christ Hospital. The Hospital's master plan calls for two or more parking lots, one of them a triple tier structure, to be built in the next five years at its complex on Palisade Avenue. Hospital properties now extend about seven blocks along Palisade Avenue and there is no end in sight to its expansion.

Over the past two decades, the Hospital has bought up one, two and three family houses and apartments in the neighborhood. In most cases, these are demolished, and in all cases they come off the tax rolls because the Hospital pays no real estate taxes. Our community is losing money, housing and most important, the residential quality so important to sustain the neighborhood. Blocks of parking lots along the cliff overlooking the River appear to be inevitable unless we the residents can convince the City Council that they should not give this valuable property away to a hungry corporation which is expanding relentlessly into our neighborhood.

Because of its tax-free status, the Hospital has considerable resources to spend on real estate, engineers, architects, planners, and lawyers - all working year-round to persuade City authorities to give it a free hand and free property on the Palisades as well. At the site plan review, the Hosptial packed the meeting with their own employees. We were not able to convince the Planning Board even to look at the Hospital's current master plan. The Hospital will again use its vans to bring people to the April 15th meeting to support their proposal. We, the local residents are asking all concerned people to come and support our campaign to stop this senseless proposal. PLEASE HELP - COME AND PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AT THE APRIL 15th MEETING AT CITY HALL!

(RNA has unanimously voted to support the local residents in their fight against the Hospital's development proposal. On page 2, is a reprint of a statement made by Maria Tuzzo, representing RNA, to the City Council opposing this ordinance to vacate the City streets.)

HOBOKEN COALITION DEFEATS CITY HALL

On Tuesday, March 31st, The Coalition for a Better Waterfront won its second referendum against City Hall in the battle for the future development of the Hoboken waterfront. By over 200 votes, Hoboken residents rejected the Port Authority's proposal to build a commercial and office development near the Hoboken Terminal. The plan, which would have included 200- and 300-foot buildings situated on a 5.5 acre abandoned cargo pier, was an environmental disaster. The Coalition, advocating a less dense proposal, stressed public access to the waterfront.

IN MEMORY OF:

The Riverview Neighborhood Association is dedicating the April issue of our newsletter to Edward Roszkowski, of Ogden Avenue. Ed was a police officer in Jersey City for over 30 years. He was known as Ed the Cop by his neighbors on the block. In RNA, he was a loyal member that was always vocal about the issues that were discussed at our meetings. After his retirement, he continued to actively participate in RNA.

Ed was a gentle person who always had a kind word or interesting inquiry when you met him. He, like many of our senior members, was a link to our local past - reminding us of our common roots in the neighorhood. He will be missed by his neighbors and friends.

COMING EVENTS

1) **RNA MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL14th: 7:30 PM**
AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

2) **Christ Hospital proposal for parking lot**
City Council April 15th, 6:00 pm, City Hall

3) **Board of Adjustment hearing for 210 Ogden Avenue:** Thursday, April 23 : 6:00 pm at City Hall

4) **FUTURE RNA MEETINGS:**
a) TUESDAY, MAY12th: NJ Transit Waterfront Plan

b) TUESDAY, JUNE 9: RNA MEETING at ASCENSION CHURCH (New York and South Streets)

RNA'S POSITION REGARDING THE CHRIST HOSPITAL PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL PARKING LOTS

(The following is a reprint of the statement made by Maria Tuzzo to the City Council on March 11th, concerning the proposed parking lot for Christ Hospital.)

The RNA membership voted February 14th to support the local residents of Palisade Avenue in their opposition to the Christ Hospital parking lot plan. This vote was based on our continued concern with our air quality, situated as we are between the three major accesses to New York City. It was also based on our position, in accord with the Regional Plan Association, that the Palisades remain public open space.

The fact that to implement the Christ Hospital parking plan requires the vacating of three streets, has increased our concerns. Now along with additional air pollution from more traffic, we have to worry about valuable city streets being given away.

Christ Hospital has over the years acquired a considerable number of properties that are no longer on the tax rolls. This has put a greater tax burden on the rest of the city property owners. Whether or not these particular streets are viable tax producers, cannot be explored if they are given over to a non-profit organization to help their parking plan.

Our concern is also that Christ Hospital's long range plan calls for the construction of multi-level buildings, and that these buildings will be put upon this site endangering the open space of the Palisades. Christ Hospital, if you are not aware, is in an R-4 zone.

If the Council sees fit to uphold the Planning Board and their approval of the Christ Hospital parking lot plan, contingent upon vacating of a portion of Ogden Avenue, Prospect and Montague Streets - the RNA, respectively, requests that the Council amend ordinance #92-030 to **lease** these streets to the Hospital, thus maintaining control over the land and its use.

For us, the members of RNA, and more importantly, the residents and taxpayers in the Jersey City Heights, the ideal outcome would be for the Council to vote to **deny** ordinance #92-030.

MEETING MINUTES

The agenda at the March meeting was bursting with guests and information. First we had an update on the 210 Ogden Avenue stone and marble factory by Marie Lannie, who reported what happened at the Board of Adjustment rehearing on March 5th and the next one which will occur on April 23rd.

Because Riverview Park has been closed due to the start of the renovations, the RNA annual flea market might have to be postponed. The discussion, about whether this annual event should be relocated to another site or occur later in the year, was tabled until the April meeting.

We also had several guests. Lloyd Currier, President of Christ Hospital spoke about the Hospital's roll in the community and answered some questions from the floor regarding their current proposal for additional parking. Tim Griffith, Barbara Petrick and Terry Constantino, representing the Palisade Avenue resident's group opposing this plan, were also in attendance and voiced their positions.

Then Ron Hine of The Coalition for a Better Waterfront spoke about the campaign against the Port Authority's development proposal for the Hoboken waterfront. The members voted to support the Coalition by contributing $100.00 to aid their cause.

Elections were held, but as each office had only one candidate, the slate was accepted unanimously. Other items discussed and voted upon were:

a) approval for a meeting to be held at the Ascension Church, located on New York Avenue and South Street on June 9th;

b) the raising of our annual dues from $3.00 to $5.00 starting in 1993;

c) the return of the monthly RNA meeting to the second Tuesday of each month; and

d) the postponement of the vote on the amendment to extend the RNA boundaries.

As usual, after the meeting, we enjoyed refreshments provided by our members. Our monthly 50/50 was won by Valerie Parzyck.

Please join us at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 14th. There are many important issues to discuss that could affect your quality of life in the Heights. See you at 7:30 pm at the Harbor View Health Care Center.

Maria Tuzzo, Out-going Secretary

RNA ELECTIONS

At the March meeting, RNA held its annual election for executive officers for 1992. The nominations remained open for the length of the meeting. Because there was only one candidate for each position, the candidates were voted in unanimously and unopposed.

The one exception was the position of vice-chair, which had no nominee. At the April meeting, there will be a special election to elect a new vice-chair. Anyone interested should come to the meeting and participate in this election.

The final results of the election are as follows:

CHAIR.....MARIA TUZZO

SECRETARY.....MARGARET McCORRY

TREASURER.....JACK REA

SGT.-AT-ARMS.....DENNIS ELGRIM

Congratulations and the best of luck to this year's new officers.

RNA would also like to thank Vito Brunetti, out-going Chair for his many years of service to RNA and the community.

CONRAD'S CORNER

Although Hoboken has been overdeveloped for a long time, it's now impossible to drive down to visit someone and be able to park a car. I have to have someone drive me down and pick me up again when I

want to go home.

With our whole Metropolitan area over developed with thirty percent more buildings and twenty percent vacant, why would anyone want to build still more to add to all this congestion. It's insane to have a proposal to build a thirty story highrise at the end of a pier next to the Lackawanna station for a Port Authority office building and other highrisers up to Stevens Tech - all because the P.A. wants to move its offices to New Jersey.

How about moving it offices into the empty thirty story Newport office tower? It's ready made and in a better location than Hoboken because the Pavonia station is halfway between Uptown and Downtown and Journal Square without having to make a transfer to Journal Square from Hoboken. With offices in the Newport tower, the P.A. personnel could shop in Newport and help stave off bankruptcy for Newport, which is in real financial trouble. Besides, it has ample parking facilities all around it. It couldn't be a better site. It's almost made to order for the P.A., with direct underground connection to the PATH.

Hoboken should tear down some of the old buildings along its city blocks for more parking. With bus fares going through the roof, few people will be able to afford mass transit. Service will also be cut down considerably with some twenty percent New Jersey Transit trains bypassing Hoboken and going directly to Penn Station. No question about it, Hoboken needs more parking, not development if it wants to survive. We will have to thin out our cities for more parking because mass transit except for PATH, has overpriced itself.

There have been plans to have PATH trains bypass the Hoboken Station and take over the Transport of N.J. trains to Montclair and North Jersey without changing trains in Hoboken. In that case, the Pavonia Station would be ideal for the Newport office building. Hoboken would have some more open space to breathe and we wouldn't have to raise the fare on the Tunnels and Path trains to build a new office building in Hoboken. Some PATH trains could still go from Hoboken Station to Downtown and 33rd Street.

HARBOR VIEW FLEA MARKET

The Harbor View Health Care Center is holding a flea market on the second floor of their facility on Friday, April 10th between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm.

They are accepting donations to be sold at the flea market and also seeking customers to purchase these items for sale. Please support this worthy endeavor.

JERSEY CITY MUSEUM

WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

SATURDAY:

1) QUILTING: 3 classes - April 4, 11, 25 (10 am to 12 pm)
2) CERAMIC SCULPTURE CLASS: 6 classes - May 9, 16, 23, 30, June 13, 20 (1:30 to 4 pm)
3) INTRODUCTION TO WATERCOLOR: 6 classes - May 9, 16, 23, 30, June 13, 20 (10 am to 12:30 pm)
4) SPECIAL FAMILY PROGRAM: BOUND TOGETHER (work with your child to design a personal momento book - scheduled to coincide with Mother's and Father's Day this spring): 3 classes - April 4, May 2, June 13 (1- 3 pm)

WEDNESDAY:

FIGURE DRAWING: 10 sessions - March 4 through May 6 (5:45 to 7:45 pm)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call 547-4514.

HELP SUPPORT RNA

Don't forget to pay your annual membership dues for 1992. It only costs $3.00 a year to enjoy the benefits of joining Riverview Neighborhood Association.

Official membership entitles people living within RNA's boundaries to voting privileges on all matters that are brought before the association at the monthly general meetings. For people living outside the area, membership dues entitle them to receive the RNA monthly newsletter and attend the monthly meetings as active non-voting participants.

Make your check payable to Riverview Neighborhood Association and mail it to 232 Ogden Avenue, J.C., N.J. 07307. Be sure to include your return address so that your membership card can be sent to you. Better yet, bring it in person to our next meeting, Friday, March 13th at the Harbor View Health Care Center.

APRIL...

April showers bring May Flowers,
Also bring the TAX MAN,
Easter Sunday, all Easter Bunnies,
Baskets and Spring Finery -
HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

Madeline D. Rea

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

RNA is soliciting material for our newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers are interested in. Would you like to thank someone? Maybe you would like to complain about something. How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe, whether it is a family heirloom or something you just found out about. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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SEE YOU AT THE NEXT RNA MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH, AT 7:30 P.M.

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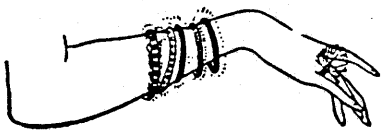

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ENVIRONMENT

FLEA MARKET

TAKE BACK OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

COME TO **CITY HALL**
280 GROVE STREET,
JERSEY CITY
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH AT 6:00 PM

STOP
CHRIST HOSPITAL

FROM SWALLOWING UP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

STOP THE NEW PARKING LOTS!

STOP THE CITY FROM GIVING OUR PUBLIC STREETS TO CHRIST HOSPITAL!

TOGETHER **WE** HAVE A VOICE!